CCBC was convened soon after 7:30 pm on May the 2nd by the vice-chair of planning, Joe Burns. The minutes from the last meeting (April 25th) were read in order to inform those who could not attend of that special meeting. (There were no amendments.) Next the letter to Allentown's Mayor and City Council, written by the acting secretary, was read. This letter was written at the direction of the April 25th meeting to register CCBC's criticisms of and dismay at recent actions of the City Council Pres. and of the Mayor. Then a member suggested that himself and/or someone else should meet with the city legal staff to discuss the legality and implications of the Mayor's ban on gay activists in city-sponsored forums. As directed by a motion from the April 25th meeting, the members addressed the issue of the proposed picketing of the Mayor's house on May the 3rd. Discussion centered on the pros and cons of picketing in general and also touched on the possibility of picketing City Hall instead of the Mayor's house, because City Council would be meeting there on May the 3rd. A motion was entertained and overwhelmingly passed "that CCBC and supporters picket City Hall on May the 3rd from 7:30pm to 9:00pm with the focus for the picket on the exercise of free speech and human rights". Then a leaflet written for the picketing was read and was approved for distribution at the picket line. To directly challenge the Mayor's ban on gay activists' participation in city-sponsored forums, a resolution was duly passed "that CCBC have someone to speak to City Council on May the 3rd as a gay rights activist under courtesy of the floor". Terri Mault, co-chair of CCBC volunteered to speak to City Council. Then a motion was properly carried "that Mike S. be the picket captain for May the 3rd". Two slogans for signs were suggested (to be used along with others): "We are your children. Gay people pay 1st class taxes for 3rd class citizenship." Proper reponses to hecklers and other eventualities at the picketing were then aired.

Terri Mault then introduced Chuck McKee, co-director of the Harrisburg Gay Switchboard. He gave a detailed yet intimate account of the establishment

and maintenance of the Harrisburg Switchboard. Chuck also gave suggestions throughout his talk and later, in answers to questions, on what should be available to those establishing a switchboard. He mentioned several times that he would like to see a gay hot-line set up in Allentown, and volunteered to help out in the establishment of one here if one were initiated.

After leaving Confront, interested members gathered at Joe Burns' apartment (just down the street) with Chuck to share wine, cheese and conversation.

LGBT History Project
of the LGBT Center of Central PA

Located at Dickinson College
Archives & Special Collections

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

Documents Online

Title: *Citizens Concerned for a Better Community (CCBC) Minutes*

Date: May 2, 1978

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:
LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu